

Fremont Conservation Commission
03-03-08 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 3, 2008
Amended and approved March 17, 2008

Present: Chairman Jack Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien and Tina Sturdivant, Alternate Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Member Bill Knee joined the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Also present: Brenda Prescott

At 7:30 pm Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting and appointed Alt. deBeer as a voting member for this meeting.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

GLEN OAKES FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Present: Forester Charlie Moreno

At 7:30 pm Mr. Moreno met with the Commission, at the Commission's request, to report on the status of the Glen Oaks Forest & Wildlife Management Plan. Mr. Moreno showed a grid of 97 plots, randomly placed for statistical samples of the forest and wildlife. The grid is important for the continuous forest inventory. Mr. Moreno explained that it would be helpful if the grids were made permanent so the same grids could be used in future studies and to re-track the species composition. He said that a low cost way of making the grids permanent would be to place polyvinyl pipe in the ground, about an inch in diameter, marking the points of the grid. This helps to re-track the species composition. He noted that more of the wildlife study is going to happen in April and May when the snow is gone and spring comes, but he is already working on overall habitat within Glen Oaks by noting types of wildlife and vegetation.

The Members reviewed the following items submitted by Mr. Moreno:

1. Soils map
2. Species Composition Pie charts of board foot volume and basal area. This showed that red oak is the most common species, followed by white pine.
3. Timber Valuation; showed the total board foot volume as 525.8 with a total value of \$98,691. This also showed 11,308 tons of chipwood/pulp at a value of \$11,308 and 2,387 cords of firewood at a value of \$23,870. Total value = \$133,900.
4. Locus Map

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5. Forest Inventory Specifications; stated that the 312.1 acres (205.6 accessible forested acres) of Glen Oaks Conservation Area owned by the Town of Fremont was cruised in December 2007 using the variable-radius plot sampling technique. Data were collected from 97 prism plots arranged in a grid pattern covering the forest. The average sampling intensity was 1 sample point per 2.1 forested acres. Aerial photos and reconnaissance of the property were employed to delineate forest types into four strata for statistical purposes.
6. Sustainable Harvest Timber Volumes; showed the estimates for all species using a 12, 15 and 25 year harvest cycle.
7. Findings; showed the volumes and value as in #3 of this list. It explains that this was done on a per acre basis with timber value averaging \$651 per accessible upland acre and includes tree species composition.
8. Chart breakdown per acre (board feet).

There was a conversation relative to threatened and endangered species. Mr. Moreno related he has not run into a lot of endangered species, but that he has found several areas of natural communities of vegetation that are very undisturbed. He has also found a small amount of red spruce in Spruce Swamp.

Mr. Moreno distributed a "Land Management Objectives" survey worksheet to the Members. To help him with the basis of his final report, Mr. Moreno requested that the Members fill out the worksheet by rating the priorities of the listed objectives using high, medium, low, or none for the ranking system. The broad objectives included natural resource management priority and property use management priority. The core management objectives included the overall matrix and ecology, forest structure and wildlife habitat, wetlands, soils, forestry, recreation and cultural interest and maintenance.

Mr. Moreno reviewed the worksheet with the Members and several of the objectives were discussed. He explained that hands-off (full reserve) is very difficult because it does not allow the window open to modify and manage any of the forest. "Modified reserve" means to work with nature to develop the forest and management areas with thoughtful and careful work. Mr. Moreno said that he would like to use a map of the area for careful designation of all of the areas. He stated that he would also promote encouraging stratified canopy layers in the forest and added that he recommends identifying and retaining character trees and mapping the designation of all significant trees. He related that there are only a handful of very old healthy trees left and they should be preserved as long as possible. There were conversations relative to establishing low recreational use areas/trails and whether to manage, rather than encourage, beaver activity.

Mr. Moreno requested that the Members fill out the worksheet and get the results back to him. The Commission agreed to further review and complete the survey at the March 17, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Moreno submitted invoice #3986 labeled "first billing" in the amount of \$5,557.50 for December 2007 –February 2008. The breakdown of the invoice included forest inventory set-up, initial forest

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recon, fieldwork, data analysis, data compilation, mapping, meeting and report, which are sections A, B, C and D) of the plan.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the invoice be paid from the Current Use Fund.

Motion seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar will be notified.

It was agreed that Mr. Moreno will meet again with the Commission at 7:30 on May 5, 2008 for the purpose of another status report. Mr. Moreno left the meeting at 8:55 pm.

IAONNIS KAKOURIS / ROBERT PREMONT

Map 3 Lot 119

Present: Representing Surveyor Timothy Lavelle

At 8:55 pm Mr. Lavelle met with the Commission relative to the Conservation Easement that is currently attached to the Iannis Kakouris property at 431 Main Street, Map 3 Lot 119. He said that there had been a question of the existence of a sheet #2 of the original plan that showed the Conservation Easement property, but found that sheet #2 does not exist so he spoke with the Town Attorney John Ryan who advised that Mr. Lavelle needs to draw a new plan. Mr. Lavelle presented a drawing of a new plan which shows the property in one piece without a matchline. He pointed out that this plan shows the Conservation Easement line exactly as it is shown on the old plan, but in drawing it he realized that the area of the Easement line is 250' only at the property line and becomes less than 250' (as little as 200') inside of the property lines because of the contour of the river. Mr. Lavelle asked how the Conservation Easement should be delineated on the new plan to clarify the 250' Conservation Easement property area. It was agreed by the Commission and Mr. Lavelle that the Conservation Easement property area would be drawn so that the closest point(s) to the Exeter River would be 250', thus allowing no area of the Easement to be less than 250' from the river.

Mr. Lavelle thanked the Commission Members and left the meeting at 9:05 pm.

ERLAC

Mbr. Sturdivant stated that the February 26, 2008 ERLAC meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Signs

Mbr. Sturdivant said that she has not received information on the additional protected river sign for the rail trail and will check on its' status.

HB 435

Mbr. Sturdivant said that she was not able to attend the meeting with DES Commissioner Burack two weeks ago, but she understands that those who did attend were hopeful for a positive outcome in support of HB 435.

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Alt. deBeer attended the meeting and reported that ERLAC supported the bill. The meeting was arranged by Senator Jack Barnes who requested that Commissioner Burack meet with ERLAC upon hearing the testimony of Mark Traeger, an ERLAC member at the original hearing. Commissioner Burack stated that DES does not have the manpower to support the bill even if it passes. HB 435

would change DES's responsibility in reviewing dredge and fill applications from just looking at the actual crossing to looking at the project as a whole and analyzing "the direct impacts of both a proposed dredging and filling activity and the predicted indirect impacts to wetlands that might be caused by post-construction activities and future uses of a property" (quote from his letter to Martha Fuller Clark at the original hearing). A meaningful discussion ensued between Commissioner Burack and his staff and ERLAC members regarding how DES could better help ERLAC and Conservation Commissions.

NH WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

As a result of Alt. deBeer attending two of the NH Fish and Wildlife Plan workshops, the Commission received a February 12, 2008 correspondence from Amanda Stone of the UNH Cooperative Extension, Community Conservation Assistance Program, stating that UNH Cooperative Extension and Fish and Game will help some Towns who want to put the Wildlife Action Plan to work in their Towns and have had people attend their workshops. A UNH and Fish and Game Assistance form was included.

There was a conversation relative to whether this help is something the Conservation Commission is interested in having and it was agreed that it is. The forms were filled out and will be returned to the NH Cooperative Extension.

SCRIBNER ESTATES

Map 2 Lot 001

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Conservation Easement deed for Scribner Estates Map 2 Lots 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-10 and 1-11 as per the June 25, 2003 Planning Board subdivision approval and the recorded subdivision plan #D-31121 has been reviewed by Town Counsel, signed by owner Mr. Perry and Conservation Commission Chairman John Karcz and recorded at the Rockingham Registry of Deeds.

DUES

Chrm. Karcz reported that an e-mail message from Heidi related that the Conservation Commission has voted to pay the annual amount of \$50 to SPNHF, but have failed ever to budget that expense. The only item in the \$200 dues line is for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, which is \$200 annually. She will charge the \$50 to the dues line of the budget, but will update the name of the line, and make a note for the 2009 budget to increase it by the \$50 annually sent to SPNHF.

CURRENT USE CD

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the Current Use CD expired on February 26, 2008 and Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar is waiting direction to reinvest it. As of Friday February 29, 2008 the NH PDIP rate was 3.5% and Citizens Bank was 2.7%.

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It was the consensus of the Commission to authorize the Town Treasurer to reinvest the CD with the NH PDIP for an additional 90 days.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of the April 26, 2008 Office of Energy and Planning 15th Annual Spring Planning & Zoning Conference. Information packets were distributed. Members were requested to submit their registration forms to the Land Use Office no later than April 1, 2008.
2. Commitment form for the 2008 4-H Camp sponsorship. The Members agreed that they would like to do a sponsorship and that it would be for children ages 10 to 16 years old. Mbr. O'Brien suggested that the Commission put an article in the Fremont Newsletter asking for a submission of an essay entitled "Why I want to go to Conservation Camp".
3. UNH Cooperative Extension March 17, 2008 current use workshop.
4. **HOUSING AND CONSERVATION PLANNING PROGRAM (HCPP) GRANTS**
Chrm. Karcz reported that the Commission has received notice of the Housing and Conservation Planning Program Grants. This new grant program enables municipalities to purchase technical planning assistance in order to plan for housing and conservation through a unified approach.

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Planning Board is beginning to use the new projector for some of their meetings and it looks like it is going to be very useful.

Mbr. O'Brien stated that the Town Moderator said the Prime Wetland display could be put up at the polls at 7:30 am on the Election Day, March 11, 2008. Mrs. Bolduc will contact him to see if it can be set up on the afternoon before election.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to adjourn at 10:10 pm.
Motion seconded by Mbr. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc